

HOW TO EYE CERTIFY

Australian Canine Eye Scheme (ACES)

The Australian National Kennel Council recognises ACES as the only eye certification system authorised to lodge individual results with the ANKC's health database, from which breed specific data may be shared with similar eye certification schemes overseas. The ANKC requires an assurance that eye testing standards will be applied uniformly and that ACES Panelists can provide a regular assessment service at central locations in each State and Territory, on a continuing basis.



The Australian Canine Eye Scheme (ACES) is a national assessment system for registered dog breeds, offering qualified certification for a range of congenital and inherited eye conditions. Eye assessments carried out by registered veterinary eye specialists. Administered by the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) to national quality assurance standards. Endorsed by the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC) as a reliable screening service, valuable to dog breeders and new owners.

Why do we need a national eye scheme?

Where possible, we should try to minimise the chances of passing on painful or vision-threatening eye conditions from one generation to the next. Regular ACES certification helps breeders plan mating programs and reassure other breeders and potential owners about the soundness of their current stock.

ACES exams screen for a range of eye diseases including those involving the eyelids, tear ducts and surrounding structures. Only conditions affecting the eyeball (cornea, iris, ciliary body, lens, vitreous, retina and optic nerve) are recorded. Examination procedures are prescribed by the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists Ophthalmology Chapter and meet international standards.

How do I arrange to have my dog tested?

The AVA appoints a panel of qualified eye specialists to issue ACES certificates and maintain up-to-date contact information. Eye testing appointments may be made with the ACES panelist of your choice, either directly or through your veterinary practice.

For most known eye conditions in Belgian Shepherds, the best age for the initial adult eye test is generally considered to be before they turn one.

A full list of Australian panelists can be found here

<https://www.ava.com.au/.../80fbda1413ec49.../aces-panellists.pdf>

The ANKC endorses ACES as the only eye certification system authorised to lodge individual results with the ANKC's Officially Registered Canine Health Information Database. (ORCHID).

The **Belgian Shepherd Dog Club of Queensland** is still maintaining its Health Register and will endeavour to do so while awaiting the ANKC publication of ORCHID

Please submit copies of your dog's hip & elbow scores, ACES eye certification, and any other certificates pertaining to health to the club Health Register for publication.

You can submit your certificates of health here <http://www.bsdcq.com/health-register.html>

View the results of Belgian Shepherds in the BSDCQ Health Register

http://www.bsdcq.com/.../66.../health_register_2019_web_page.pdf

Samples of health certificates here <http://www.bsdcq.com/health.html>

Can my local vet perform an eye test for me?

No, not an official certification. ANKC endorses only ACES approved panelists that operate in a highly specified manner, subject to procedural and technical audits of the scheme's ability to deliver results that are in accord with ANKC's own goals. The ACES Examining Panel employs the services of qualified veterinary eye specialists who are not only extensively trained in the recognition of normal and abnormal eye conditions, they are also subject to regular reviews of their individual assessment criteria through periodic re-assessment.



Extracted from

<http://ankc.org.au/HealthAndWelfare/?id=1333>

<https://www.ava.com.au/.../80fb.../aces-rules-and-procedures.pdf>

Eye photo courtesy Bing Images (free to share and use)

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